



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

January 2013

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



One of the most fundamental and important functions of city government is providing quality public health and safety services such as police, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS). A quick glance at the Mishawaka Civil City budget would reveal that public safety departments are the single biggest expenditure of the City of Mishawaka encompassing roughly 50% of the annual budget. It is often said that budgets are about setting priorities and it is clear to see that police, fire and EMS are a high priority to the City of Mishawaka.

My administration is committed to delivering world-class service we can all count on, especially during critically important times such as an emergency. We are constantly looking for ways to think smarter and utilize taxpayer dollars as wisely and prudently as we have been entrusted. Therefore, we look to every aspect of our operation to make improvements that enhance service while leading to greater efficiency.

This continuous effort led to some historic changes for the Mishawaka Fire Department in 2012. Several major initiatives will be completed and rolled out with the start of 2013.

The first and perhaps most exciting is the opening of the brand new Station #4 located at 3000 E. Harrison Road. This station replaces the city's historic facility on Lincolnway East that was built in 1929. In addition to housing the apparatus from the old Station #4 the facility will house the administrative offices for the fire department as well as expanded ambulance service. The building also features a training room that will double as a gathering space that is capable of hosting many community events.

Beginning in 2013 the fire department will operate ambulances at its Central Station (Station #1) on Union Street, Station #2 in Normain Heights, and

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Facts About the Flu

Prevention and Detection Tips from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Is it a cold or is it the flu? Because they share many of the same symptoms, many people confuse colds and the flu. But while you can have a cold several times each year, most people only get the flu once every several years. Some people also call a viral illness that makes them throw up or have diarrhea the "stomach flu" however this is incorrect. The flu mostly causes symptoms in the nose, throat, and lungs.

Symptoms

Flu symptoms usually begin quickly. Symptoms appear 1-7 days after you come in contact with the virus. The first symptom is a fever between 102 and 106 °F. An adult usually has a lower fever than a child. Other common symptoms include body aches, chills, dizziness, flushed face, headache, lack of energy, nausea and vomiting.

Between days 2 and 4 of the illness, the fever and aches and pains begin to go away but new symptoms occur including a dry cough, increased breathing symptoms, runny nose (clear and watery), sneezing and a sore throat. These symptoms (except the cough) usually go away in 4-7 days however the cough and feeling tired may last for weeks.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

**Merrifield Ice Rink has
opened for the season!**

Upcoming Events!

DADDY / DAUGHTER DANCE

February 22 - 7-9pm

\$25 per couple includes refreshments and a picture.

Add'l daughters - \$5 ea.

For more info & registration details contact Mishawaka Parks Dept.

(574) 258-1664

VITA Free Tax Prep

Volunteer Income
Tax Assistance

Starting January 23rd, VITA IRS-certified tax preparers will prepare and e-file your taxes for FREE!

Call 2-1-1 between 8am-5pm Mon-Fri to **confirm eligibility** and **schedule your appointment**.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a service of the United Way of St. Joseph County.

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (continued)

Station #3 on Douglas Road. A fourth, part-time ambulance will run out of the new Station #4 on Harrison Road as staffing permits.

These changes mean that the City of Mishawaka will have two facilities that it no longer needs. The old station #4 on Lincolnway will likely be sold in a public disposition process with restrictions that it be saved. The City will also seek to re-purpose the Central EMS (Station #5) facility on Mishawaka Avenue and will likely dispose of that facility.

Another major change in the Mishawaka Fire Department came following intensive labor talks between the City of Mishawaka and the bargaining group for the firefighters Mishawaka Professional Firefighters Local #360. The result was a new contract ratified in November. While the average citizen will see very few outward changes there were several significant changes within the department.

First of all, the City has been able to increase manpower for the last several years and those increases will finally result in a third ambulance being placed in service every day. This will improve delivery of service and greatly reduce the hundreds of times a year that outside agencies respond to emergency calls inside the City of Mishawaka. Manpower will increase from its current 27 people on duty daily to 29 to cover the 6,000 plus emergency calls the department gets annually.

The second major change that came out of the collective bargaining agreement was the adoption of the three-platoon system. Previously the firefighters worked under a two-platoon, or shift system. This created six different schedules to plan that resulted in a less efficient use of personnel. By changing to the three-platoon system, the shift schedules are down to three. Firefighters will continue to work the same 56-hour per week schedule as in the past.

Mishawaka will continue to strive to give its citizens the maximum services in all areas, especially public safety. As other municipalities have been forced to cut back or even eliminate service in recent years, Mishawaka has been fortunate to plan for continued growth due to its diligent eye on maximum return for the smallest investment. As an example, the new station and offices were paid for with funding from the City's bond bank. Using its own bond bank, the City pays itself back with interest rather than having to go to a private bank and pay higher interest rates.

The city will continue to face challenges as growth of the city and budget constraints place a premium on efficiency. We are confident, however that if we plan ahead we will be able to meet these obstacles while not compromising the great service that you expect.

Mayor Dave Wood



Facts About the Flu (continued)

Some people may not feel like eating. The flu can make asthma, breathing problems, and other long-term illnesses worse.

Treating the Symptoms

Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) help lower fever. Do NOT use aspirin. A fever does not need to come all the way down to normal. Most people will feel better if their temperature drops by 1 degree. Over-the-counter cold medicines may help some of the symptoms. Cough drops will help with a sore throat. Get plenty of rest. Drink plenty of liquids. Avoid alcohol and tobacco.

Complications

Anyone at any age can have serious complications from the flu. Those at high risk include children younger than 2 and adults over 60, women more than 3 months pregnant, and those living in a long-term care facility or have chronic heart, lung, or kidney conditions, diabetes, or a weakened immune system. Possible complications, especially for those at high risk, include: pneumonia, encephalitis (infection of the brain), meningitis or seizures. Call your health care provider if you get the flu and think you are at risk for having complications.

Prevention

Avoid sharing food, utensils, cups, or bottles. Cover your cough with a tissue and throw away after use. Cough into your sleeve if a tissue is not available. Use hand sanitizer often during the day and always after touching your face. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Consider getting a flu shot.

Always seek the advice of a qualified health care provider if you have questions regarding your medical condition or before starting any new treatment.